

Thanos Kipreos
Director
Technical & Regulatory Affairs
703/907-7708
e-mail: tkipreos@tia.eia.org

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



February 9, 1998

Mr. William Caton
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW Rm. 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: In the Matter of Amendment of Section 2.106 of the
Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum at 2 GHz for Use by the
Mobile Satellite Service

Ex Parte Presentation in **ET Docket No. 95-18**

(Two copies of this presentation have been submitted to the
Secretary)

Dear Mr. Caton:

The purpose of this letter is to report on the progress of the TIA Joint Working Group (JWG) established to study the potential for sharing the band 2165 - 2200 GHz between the Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) and Fixed Service (FS) in the United States. The creation of the JWG was reported to the Commission in the form of an ex parte filing on Sept. 6, 1996. The first meeting of the JWG was held in August 1996, and meetings have been on a monthly basis since that time.

A great deal of information on FS and MSS system characteristics, interference criteria and methodologies for assessing interference has been contributed. This information is being incorporated into the technical output document, a TIA Telecommunications Systems Bulletin (TSB). The TSB is a technical document which will provide the technical basis for determining whether sharing is possible between the fixed service and mobile satellite service. The TSB will include the technical characteristics of the systems, the interference criteria, and methodologies for assessing interference between the fixed and mobile satellite services

A final report is being written to supplement the TSB. The final report will not be technical in nature, rather the purpose of the final report is to present information on pertinent, non-technical topics which may not be factual, for which consensus was not reached or where more than one legitimate approach exists.

The writing of the TSB is well underway with much of the text having been written and in the review process. It is hoped that all of the text will be complete in the next several months.

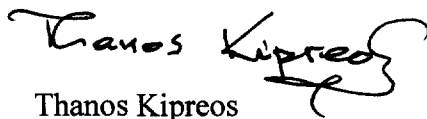


Recognizing that coordination procedures between the MSS and FS will need to be developed in the event sharing is found to be possible, an ad hoc committee to consider coordination procedures has been established. The committee has recommended that the National Spectrum Managers Association (NSMA) be responsible for the development of these procedures. The NSMA has accepted this responsibility and the ad hoc committee is now defining the coordination development process and the structure of the coordination procedures. These will be provided to the NSMA to be used as a basis for the coordination procedures.

As a result of the 2 GHz MSS applications filed with the FCC on 9/26/97, the JWG has taken steps to gain the participation of these applicants in the work of the JWG. All of the applicants have been notified by letter and phone call of the existence and purpose of the JWG and have been encouraged to participate. A copy of this letter and a list of recipients is attached. In addition, the JWG is taking steps to determine if any new technical or operational issues have been raised by these applications which could require additional work by the JWG.

Although the JWG has accomplished a great deal of work, a great deal of work remains and it is difficult to project when the work might be finished. The JWG has every intention of completing the work as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Thanos Kipreos

cc: Bruce A. Franca, Deputy Chief Engineer, Office of Engineering and Technology
Regina M. Keeney, Chief, International Bureau
Michele Farquhar, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Roy J. Stewart, Chief, Mass Media Bureau
Richard M. Smith, Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology
Thomas Tycz, Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication
Roderick K. Porter, Deputy Bureau Chief, International Bureau

Attachments: Letter to the Mobile Satellite Service Applicants
List of Recipients

Dear Satellite or Fixed Service Colleague:

This is to inform you of a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Interservice Spectrum Sharing at 2165-2200 MHz. This group was formed in September of 1996 and is co-sponsored by the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) and the National Spectrum Managers Association (NSMA). The JWG is comprised of individuals representing satellite and terrestrial microwave licensees and applicants. The group is chartered to study the feasibility of sharing the 2.1 GHz frequency band between Mobile Satellite Services (MSS) and is the Fixed Service (FS) microwave operators.

The output of the JWG will be two products:

- 1). An ANSI accredited TIA Telecommunications Systems Bulletin (TSB) defining methods of calculating interference potential between the two respective services and interference criteria for both.
- 2). A report to the FCC on the findings of the group.

If you have an interest regarding the issues relative to interservice spectrum sharing of the 2.1 GHz band, you are encouraged to participate in the work of this group. This activity should be of particular interest to the MSS applicants who recently filed with the Commission to use the 2.1 GHz band, to FS licensees, and to equipment manufacturers of products that operate in the band.

The group is well advanced in drafting item one above and prior to completion would like to be sure that all interested parties are aware of the group, the activities and invited to participate.

The JWG has been meeting approximately once a month for one day and the work product is being driven by technical contributions from participants. It is expected that the group will continue its work over the coming months to finalize its work products referred to above.

It should be noted that this is an engineering forum and participants should have a technical background.

For further information, you can contact TIA, NSMA or the JWG Chairman, David Carroll.

Your consideration is appreciated,

Dr. David Carroll

602-675-1603
david_carroll@email.mot.com

ATTACHMENT

The following list represents the companies or organizations that have representatives currently participating in the JWG:

- Alcatel
- American Association of Railroads
- API
- AT&T
- BellSouth
- Columbia Spectrum Management
- COMSAT
- Comsearch
- Globalstar
- Harris Farinon
- ICO
- Iridium
- Lucent Technologies
- Motorola
- NSMA
- Qualcomm
- Radio Dynamics
- Stanford Telecom
- TIA
- Union Pacific Railroads
- Wardcom